

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, May 14, 2010**

**ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COMMITTS \$150,000 IF KINGSTON'S BID FOR THE 2012  
SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS IS SUCCESSFUL**

Hon. John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and The Islands together with Tourism Kingston and The Kingston Curling Community are pleased to announce that the government of Ontario has made a commitment to support Kingston's bid for the 2012 Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

The Ontario government has committed to provide \$150,000 if Kingston's bid is successful. The Canadian Curling Association will announce the host community for the 2012 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in September.

"With the Government of Ontario's contribution, I hope that Kingston is awarded the prestigious 2012 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. This event would bring visitors, sport enthusiasts and investment to our great City," said John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and The Islands. "I wish Kingston the best of luck in our bid!"

In 2009 Victoria, BC hosted the Scotties and the economic impact for the city was estimated at over \$12 million. The event occurs in February during Kingston's tourism "shoulder season". There are approximately 72 competitors and coaches from 13 Canadian provinces and territories, an additional 400 officials, VIP and media. Historically, the event attracts over 3,000 out of town spectators over nine days.

The timing of the event and its magnitude would provide a needed increase in visitors and visitor spending in the City of Kingston. The Province of Ontario and the City will benefit from the increase in economic activity that will support; wages, salaries, jobs, Gross Domestic Product and Taxes (federal, provincial and municipal).

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